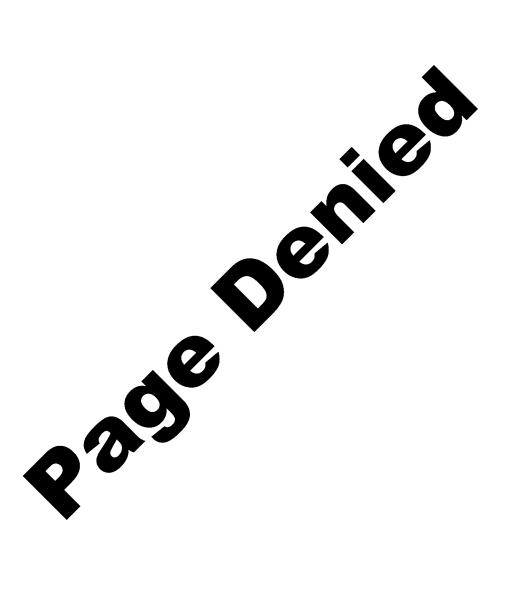


# **National Intelligence Daily**

Wednesday 20 April 1983

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CPAS NID 83-093.IX 20 April 1983



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NTRAL AMERICA: Meeting of Contadora Minis	ters	
The discussions beginning today in Panama am erican Foreign Ministers take place amid increas	ing signs that	
aragua will be urged by its neighbors to agree to ogue.	o a regional	25)
Several reports indicate that the meeting—sporombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama—will be Central American nations. According to a Venezural Americans are to hold preliminary bilateral tilateral regional discussions are planned for tor	e attended by all zuelan official, the talks today.	
e governments present.		25)
El Salvador has not ruled out an informal talk w gathering but says it will insist on a regional me vadoran position will be coordinated with Hondu red its refusal to engage in bilateral talks with Ni d to its isolation.	eting. The ras, which has	25)
Guatemala plans to oppose any one-on-one me sta Rica—which recently held two inconclusive d aragua—hopes to push regional issues. Costa R	liscussions with lican officials	
cate these will include arms limitation, removal o trol of arms trafficking, and secure frontiers.	or toreign advisers,	25)
Comment: Nicaragua's uncharacteristic reticen gests the Sandinistas want to avoid making state nage prospects for bilateral discussions with the dinistas may be counting on Mexico—which appeared the other sponsors to hold preliminary bans of gaining Nicaraguan participation—to block	ements that would ir neighbors. The parently ilateral talks as a	
vene a regional meeting.	accompto to	25)
The Central Americans probably are aware that owing a divide-and-conquer strategy. The apparaween El Salvador and Honduras, however, and Cr Nicaragua's recent seizure of a boat in Costa Regests they will be united in demanding a regionaragua—and possibly Mexico—boycotts such a saining participants would still have a useful forus	ent coordination Costa Rica's anger Rican waters al dialogue. If meeting, the	
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# USSR-MONGOLIA-CHINA: Beijing's Stance Criticized

The USSR has accused the Chinese of blocking an improvement in bilateral relations, and Mongolia has blamed them for the lack of headway in bettering Sino-Mongolian ties.
A commentary in <i>Izvestiya</i> yesterday reiterated Moscow's rejection of preconditions for a normalization of relations and said Beijing was creating obstacles, especially with "fabrications" about a Soviet threat. The commentary indicated the USSR is satisfied with the atmosphere achieved at the recent bilateral consultations, but it added that the talks have not gone far enough to allow any firm conclusions about the outcome.
In an unusual comment on relations with Beijing, Mongolia criticized the Chinese for raising the question of Soviet troops in Mongolia at the Sino-Soviet talks and for insisting that Ulaanbaatar adopt a neutral stand between the USSR and China. The party newspaper <i>Unen</i> on Monday stated that the issue of Soviet forces stationed "temporarily" in Mongolia could be taken up only after China shows a willingness to be a good neighbor to both countries.
<b>Comment</b> : The <i>Izvestiya</i> commentary reflects Soviet frustration over China's continued criticism of Soviet policy and its refusal to relax its conditions for improved relations. At the same time, it is almost certainly designed to encourage a more forthcoming Chinese attitude when Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kapitsa arrives in Beijing next month on his annual visit to the Soviet Embassy there.
The <i>Unen</i> commentary, which most probably was approved by Moscow, leaves it up to Beijing to take the first step toward improving Sino-Mongolian relations, but it does not rule out the possibility of some eventual movement on the question of Soviet forces in Mongolia.

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### **BRAZIL-LIBYA-NICARAGUA: Aircraft Turned Back**

An official Brazilian statement yesterday said the Libyan C-130 at
Recife was searched Monday and found to contain arms and
explosives. This transport and three IL-76s, which are being held at
Manaus, were bound for Managua, Nicaragua, with a declared cargo
of "medical supplies." Brazil announced that—having lodged an
official protest—it would return the aircraft to Libya with their cargoes
and crews in accordance with international law.

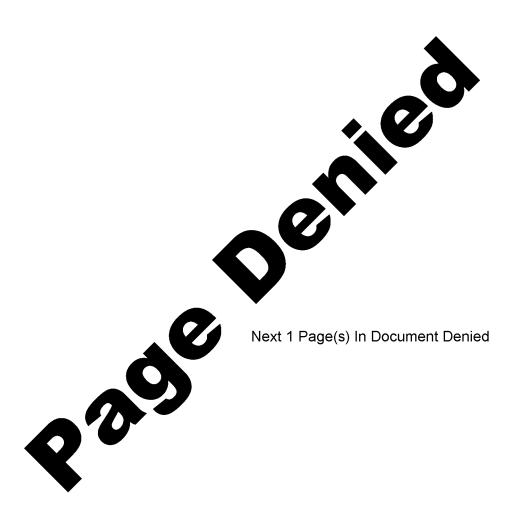
**Comment**: The move to search the aircraft may have been spurred by a rash of publicity concerning the flights. The decision simply to return the transports, crews, and cargoes could reflect Brazilian reluctance to jeopardize important commercial relations with Libya.

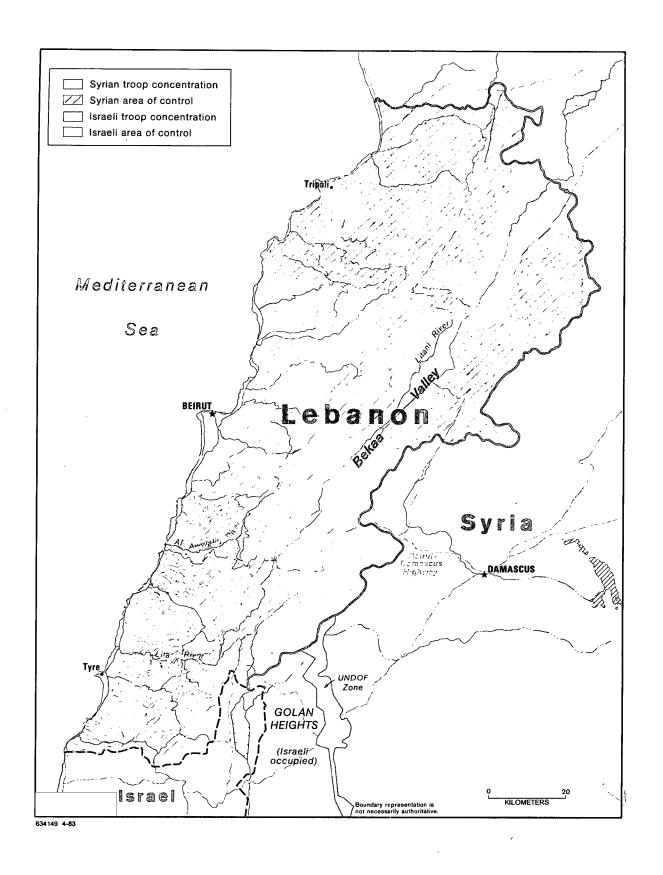
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#### **ISRAEL-LEBANON: Israeli Reinforcements**

Israel has been marginally reinforcing its positions in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley since last week, according to overhead photography and press reports. An Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman claimed on Thursday that Damascus is planning a limited ground action against Israeli troops in Lebanon.

Comment: The dispatch of additional troops

reflect Tel Aviv's heightened concern about Damascus's intentions. The reinforcements fill out the three Israeli brigades in the Bekaa Valley and bring to 13,000 to 15,000 the number of Israeli troops in Lebanon. In the Bekaa, 9,000 Israelis occupy well-fortified positions overlooking approximately 35,000 Syrian troops opposing them, and they should be able to contain a Syrian attack. Current Syrian military activity in Lebanon and Syria appears normal, however, and there is no evidence that Damascus has reinforced its troops in the Bekaa Valley.

## PERSIAN GULF: Problems in Locating Oil Spill

The location and movement of the oil spill from the damaged Nowruz platforms in the Persian Gulf have not been determined, hampering assessment of potential damage. Engineering problems have prevented use of the Landsat System, which was used to track the Mexican oil spill in 1979,

Scattered air and coastal observations have located oil patches off Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Qatar, and small amounts have come ashore at these countries. The US has provided governments in the region with a computer model to project oil spill trajectories, but its effectiveness has not yet been verified.

**Comment**: Wind patterns are keeping most of the spill offshore. The potential for serious economic and environmental disruption will increase, however, until Iraq and Iran agree on procedures for capping the damaged wells. Once agreement is reached, capping the wells will require two to four weeks.

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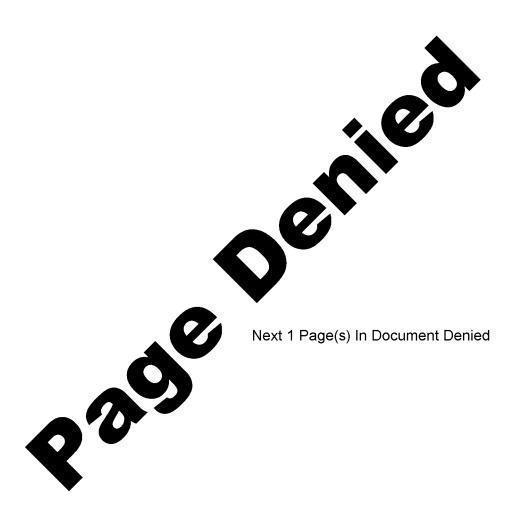
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THAILAND: Election Results	
Official Interior Ministry figures show the three partners in the current cabinet—the Social Action, Thai Nation, and Democrat Parties—substantially increased their parliamentary representation in elections on Monday, while the Army-backed parties suffered setbacks. No single party won a majority, however, and Social Action leader Khukrit has asked Prime Minister Prem to lead a coalition.	
Comment: Although Prem wants to leave political life, he probably can be persuaded to head a new government.	
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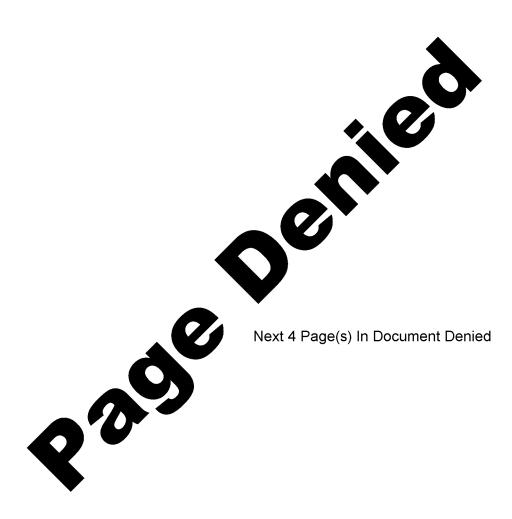
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